

County Snapshot

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Orange County is situated along 42 miles of southern California coast between Los Angeles County to the north and San Diego County to the south. Riverside and San Bernardino counties border on the east.

In 1990, the population of Orange County was 2,417,500. By the year 2020, population is projected to be 3,431,800, an increase of 42 percent. Most of the county's population is located in the northwest corner of the county along the coast.

The 1999 annual average statistics show the civilian labor force for Orange County to be 1,471,600 with an unemployment rate of 2.7 percent. This is significantly lower than the state's unemployment rate of 5.2 percent for the same year.

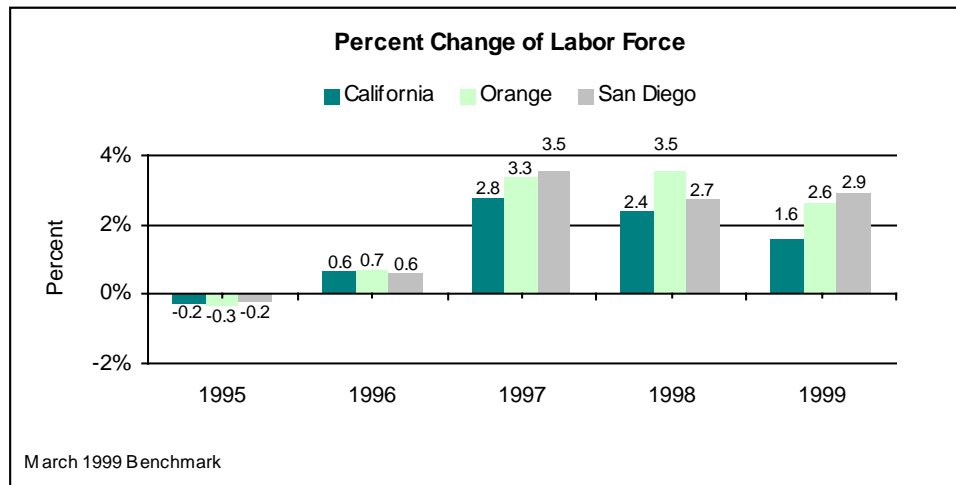
Services is the largest industry in the county, accounting for 30.7 percent of the total employment. Retail trade accounts for 17.1 percent and manufacturing makes up 16.9 percent of the total.

Most of the jobs in Orange County's future nonfarm wage and salary employment will be in the same three industry sectors. Services, the fastest growing industry, is projected to add 96,400 jobs by 2004, a gain of 25.9 percent. Manufacturing is projected to grow by 18.3 percent with over a fourth of the new jobs in the electronic equipment sector. Retail trade will add 24,200 jobs, a growth of 11.2 percent.

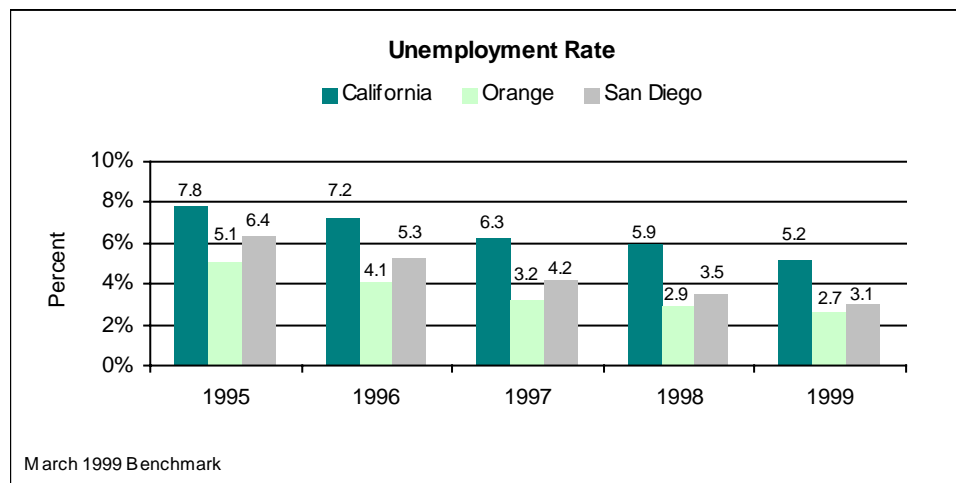
Job growth creates opportunity and is considered to be one measure of economic health. Orange County continues to record job growth and declining unemployment rates.

LABOR FORCE

Orange County's civilian labor force began a growth trend in 1996 and experienced 3.5 percent growth in 1998. In 1999, 2.6 percent growth was recorded for Orange County compared to 1.6 percent for the state. Since 1997, neighboring San Diego County has also outpaced the state in the rate of growth in civilian labor force.

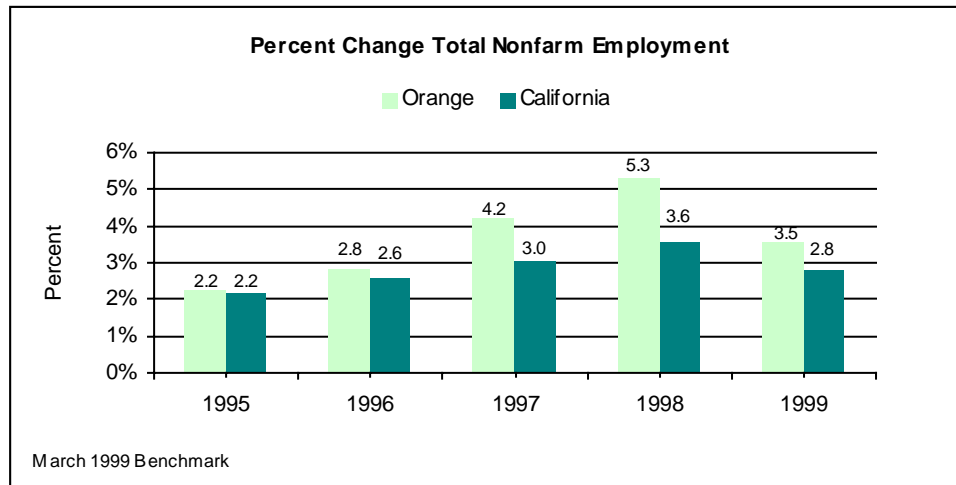


Since 1995, the annual average unemployment rate for both Orange and San Diego counties has been lower than the rate for the state. Orange County posted a 2.7 percent unemployment rate in 1999 compared to 5.2 percent for the state.

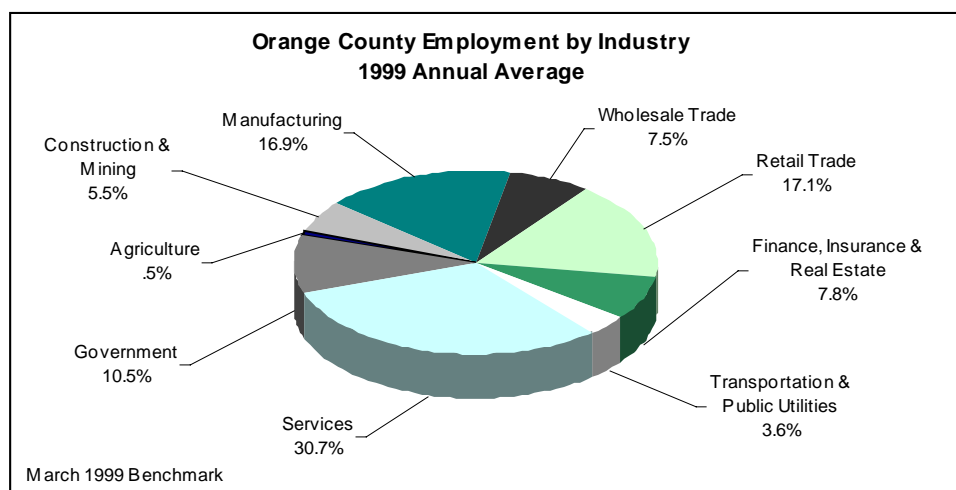


INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

In 1995, Orange County's growth in total nonfarm employment mirrored the state's growth at 2.2 percent. In ensuing years, the county surpassed the state's growth and in 1999, Orange County posted 3.5 percent growth compared to 2.8 percent for the state.



In 1999, the services, retail trade, and manufacturing divisions dominated Orange County employment. For the forecast period 1997 to 2004, projections in nonfarm employment indicate that the same three industries will account for over 68 percent of the job growth.



OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Demographic trends, shifts in demands for products or services, technological innovations and the way business is conducted are some of the variables that drive employment in an occupation up or down. Also, occupations which have large employment and have high turnover rates generally provide the most job openings. Orange County is projected to have employment opportunities not only in the high turnover occupations but also in the more technologically advanced categories.

| Associated Occupations | SERVICES |
|------------------------|--|
| | 1997 – 2004 Projected Growth 25.9% |
| | Guards And Watch Guards – 4520 job openings. Stand guard at entrance gates or walk about premises of businesses, industrial establishments, or private residences to prevent theft, violence or infractions of rules. Direct patrons or employees, control traffic. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$7.53 |
| | Janitors, Cleaners-Except Maids – 4350 job openings. Keep buildings in clean and orderly condition; perform heavy cleaning duties such as operating motor driven cleaning equipment, mopping floors, washing walls and glass, and removing rubbish. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$6.52 |
| | Laborers, Landscaping / Groundskeeping – 3350 job openings. Maintain grounds of property using hand or power tools or equipment. May work in nursery facility or at customer location. Workers typically perform a variety of tasks. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$7.28 |
| | General Managers, Top Executives – 2460 job openings. Include both top and mid-level managers whose duties and responsibilities are too diverse and general in nature to be classified in any functional or line area of management and administration. Work Experience, plus a Bachelor's or higher. Median Hourly Wage - \$35.36 |
| | Systems Analysts, Electronic Data Processor – 2400 job openings. Analyze business, scientific, and technical problems for application to electronic data processing systems. Bachelor's Degree. Median Hourly Wage - \$23.49 |

| Associated Occupations | MANUFACTURING |
|------------------------|--|
| | 1997 – 2004 Projected Growth 18.3% |
| | Assemblers, Fabricators-Except Machine, Electrical – 2090 job openings. Assemble and/or fit together parts to form complete units or subassemblies at a bench, conveyor line, or on the floor. Duties are of a non-precision nature. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$7.85 |
| | Electrical And Electronic Engineers – 1330 job openings. Design, develop, test and supervise the manufacture and installation of electrical and electronic equipment, components or systems, computers and related equipment and systems for commercial, industrial, military or scientific use. Bachelor's Degree. Median Hourly Wage - \$32.25 |
| | General Managers, Top Executives – 1140 job openings. Include both top and mid-level managers whose duties and responsibilities are too diverse and general in nature to be classified in any functional or line area of management and administration. Work Experience, plus a Bachelor's or higher. Median Hourly Wage - \$35.36 |
| | Computer Engineers – 1130 job openings. Assist in the selection and installation of computer systems by providing technical advice and support. Bachelor's Degree. Median Hourly Wage - \$28.15 |
| | Electrical, Electronic Assemblers – 1070 job openings. Put together the small internal components that control electrical currents and make the products work. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$8.62 |

| Associated Occupations | RETAIL TRADE |
|------------------------|--|
| | 1997 – 2004 Projected Growth 11.2% |
| | Salespersons, Retail – 5530 job openings. Get the customer interested by describing the merchandise and showing how it is used. May also order merchandise, stock shelves, mark price tags, take inventory and prepare displays. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$8.22 |
| | Cashiers – 3010 job openings. Handle cash and credit payments, make change, give receipts, account for all payments, and perform related clerical duties. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$7.11 |
| | Food Preparation Workers - 1900 job openings. Keep kitchen work areas clean and orderly, keep restaurant equipment and utensils clean, move supplies and wash dishes, trays, pots and pans used in cooking and serving. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$6.61 |
| | Combined Food Preparation And Service Workers – 1780 job openings. Do both food preparation and food service. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$6.12 |
| | Waiters And Waitresses – 1450 job openings. Serve food and drink to customers. Duties may include explanation about how the meal is prepared, wine recommendations or simple food preparation at the table. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$5.99 |

This **County Snapshot** is a product of:
State of California
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Labor Market Information Division
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